



**EPPK**

# ADDRESSING THE BASQUE PEOPLE





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### **THE POLITICAL CONFLICT AND ITS DEMOCRATIC RESOLUTION**

**This public statement springs from the political debates the collective of Basque Political prisoners (EPPK) has been holding lately.**

The current political conflict violates our rights. This year that marks the 75th anniversary of the Gernika bombings and 500 years of occupation of the Basque State (Nafarroa). Both France and Spain maintain a firm oppressive stance.

The democratic resolution to the conflict should welcome and facilitate all political agendas including that of independence. The choice is the peoples' choice.

### **BASQUE LEFT WING CHOICE.**

The Basque left has taken a renewed political stand. This new approach aims to achieve the political goals by focusing on social and institutionalized forces.

We are willing to further develop our strategy and take the significant steps, as that is what the Basque society is demanding. In order to be effective, people must unite their strengths and walk as one.

The EEPK firmly adheres to this political strategy.

### **THE DECISION OF ETA.**

ETA has decided to end the armed struggle. The struggle of ETA shows the oppression that the Basque Country has undergone and also demonstrates how democratically weak the Spanish state is.

By supporting and respecting ETA's decision, the EPP acknowledges that the era of armed struggle has come to an end. .

### **ANOETA, GERNIKA AND AIETE- POLITICAL REFERENCES.**

In accordance with the 2006 Anoeta agreement, we expect ETA to partake in legitimate talks with the respective governments in order to establish procedures to free the political prisoners.

We recognize the Gernika agreement (2010) as the main integral solution.

We view the Aiete Declaration (2011) as a scheme that verifies the process of resolution and outlines the negotiation path.

Current political state.

The relocation of the Basque Left's strategy has shaken the socio-political reality by uniting forces and by consolidating a palpable political transformation.

The response of the State is to blockade the initiative in order to instigate the resignation of the Basque community.

To make the concerning states act democratically, the effective unification of forces is necessary. We must be fully aware of our current historical and political reality. Now is the right time! We must revive our political background and stand in strong political confrontation. Never give up the fight!

## **PRISON POLICY**

The prison policy is a reflection of warfare. The EPP has always stood against it successfully, and this long lasting stand has contributed to build the new political choice. The struggle has driven us here and through the struggle we will be free.

The prison policy, in this new era, is acting undemocratically, by enforcing systematical violation of human rights. Among others, the arbitrary measures, the prisoners' dispersion and life imprisonment must be out ruled and the fundamental rights guaranteed.

We consider the 'Regret 'confession to be humiliating and devastating for the political prisoners and therefore we strongly neglect it. We must not accept sentence improvements at the detriment of fundamental rights.

The integral solution to the conflict comes with amnesty and self determination.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF THE STRUGGLE**

The Basque country and its people are the victims of the oppression. Part and consequence of the struggle are the political prisoners and the people on exile. It is undeniable that the conflict has generated human suffering. We stand strong with the Gernika statement released in Decemeber.

We take responsibility for such suffering; we have witnessed it for generations now. To be understanding does not make us blind though. We recognize that victimization is often one sided and dismissive of the



suffering of other. The “victims issue” is used to avoid a real resolution, as the victims and prisoners are put face to face instead of looking for an agreement for each one.

To find a resolution to this painful and lasting conflict, the reasoning and the action must be based on a free and willing effort.

### **THE OFFER**

We call the concerning governments to act responsibly and to take upon this historical opportunity, by embracing the democratic path. Spain, France and the Basque Country will win. The people will win.

The EPPK is willing to discuss over the requests already made by the Basque political prisoners Collective. The recently appointed group of interlocutors are the ones chosen to carry out such a task.

We also welcome the international community to further commit themselves.

### **Amnesty and Self Determination!**

**EPPK**

*The Basque Country in our hearts,*  
January 2012

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